

access to space

<http://accesstospace.nasa.gov>

Recent Changes to ATS

Several changes were made to the ATS website in time for the RideShare Conference held in Albuquerque last month. Three of those changes are briefly described below. As always, customer feedback is welcomed and encouraged, so if you have any ideas for the site, please use the "contact us" link at the bottom of any ATS page and let us know.

New Feature! – Simplified Mission Edit

The old mission edit process has been replaced by a much improved simplified mission edit process. No longer is it necessary to wade through many web pages to update a single bit of mission information. Now everything you need to update is on one page in the mission edit area. This new feature makes it easier to keep mission information up-to-date. (This feature is restricted to authorized users.)

New Feature! – New Launcher Programs

The first of two new sections of the Access Mode area includes specific information about new launcher programs that are in development or test flight stages. Some of the programs included are Scorpius and Super Strypi.

New Feature! – Alternative Access Methods

The second new section includes information about alternative access methods. Two of the alternative access methods are Transfer Vehicles, which are stand-alone vehicles designed for the transfer of smaller payloads to final orbits, and Secondary Payload Adaptors, which are designed to provide a standard interface between secondary payloads and launch vehicles.

Upcoming Changes to ATS

We heard your comments loud and clear at the RideShare Conference about ensuring the accuracy of ATS information and the ease of use of the system. We are concentrating our efforts on addressing both of these issues. First, during the summer we will be updating the Mission information and the Launch Vehicle information and intend to implement procedures to ensure that information remains up-to-date. We want you to be confident that what you see in ATS is accurate and timely.

Second, we are making changes to provide more descriptive information about the various sections of the site and make it easier (and quicker!) to get to those sections of the site you want to see. We intend to have these changes in place by the time the AIAA / Utah State University Conference on Small Satellites takes place in August.

Upcoming Events

Small Sat 2002

The 16th annual AIAA / Utah State University Conference on Small Satellites will be held in Logan, Utah from August 12 – 15, 2002. This annual gathering of the small satellite community provides a forum to review recent successes, explore new directions, and introduce emerging technologies in small spacecraft development. The theme of this year's conference is "Breakthrough Technologies – The Foundation of the Future". Visit the Small Sat web page at <http://www.sdl.usu.edu/conferences/smallsat/> for more information about the conference and how to register. The ATS website will be demonstrated in the exhibit hall so stop by and see us at the NASA/GSFC/RSDO booth (#71)!